

Chronology of Agency Dealings Regarding Hillside Safes

1964 - 1965

Our personnel recall that in this time frame GSA proposed to initiate a single contract award to Hillside Metal Products, Inc., for all safes for use within the Federal Government.

2 July 1965

The State Department expressed objections to the single awards contract.

29 July 1965

The Director of Security/CIA advised the Commissioner, GSA, of the Agency's objections to the single award concept. Attachment 1.

September 1969

One hundred and thirty Hillside Class VI, two-drawer safes were received by CIA through GSA. Inspections revealed several deficiencies to the extent that the units did not meet specifications, then AA-F358E. A statement by the Agency safe technician on this review is Attachment 2. Through the remainder of 1969 and early 1970, various efforts were made to correct the Hillside safes and to gain the support of GSA and Army quality control elements in rejecting them.

November 1969

Sixty Hillside Class V, four-drawer safes were received at the [redacted] In view of the problems identified with the previous Hillside safes, five were shipped to the [redacted] for inspection. Major discrepancies were noted. Attachment 3.

12 December 1969

As a result of the deficiencies, the CIA safe technician, representatives of the Physical Security Division/OS, CIA and representatives of GSA sought assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Standards in validating the findings. Attachment 4.

28 January 1970

Tests were completed and the deficiencies noted and acknowledged by the GSA inspector. Attachment 5.

1 July 1970

Since the above tests indicated numerous faults in the safes tested, the CIA safe technician visited the [] to inspect the remaining, 55, safes held there. The results of his inspection are cited in Attachment 6.

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1 July 1971

The Agency established Diebold and Mosler safes as the Agency standard. Attachment 7.

12 April 1974

The issue of a single award contract was again raised by GSA in the Inter-agency Committee on Security Equipment. CIA response was similar to its previous position. Attachment 8.

16 June 1975

GSA advises CIA that the Mosler Class VI safe will no longer be available under Federal Schedule since the 1976 bid was awarded Hillside. Attachment 9.

August 1975

Ordered two Hillside safes for evaluation (received 30 August 1976).

16 January 1976

The Deputy Director of Security requests that the Office of Logistics/CIA negotiate directly with other sources for safes and requests that inspection be performed in house. Attachment 10.

29 January 1976

The Office of Security limits the issue of Hillside safes to the Washington area. Attachment 11.

The Office of Logistics rejects the concept of direct negotiations with safe manufacturers but agrees to continue attempts to purchase other than Hillside through GSA. Attachment 12.

13 May 1976

GSA substitutes Hillside safes against an Agency request for Mosler. GSA instructed to hold order pending the Agency's inspection of two Hillside safes ordered in August 1975. Attachment 13.

3 September 1976

Two Hillside safes received against August 1975 order and found to be unacceptable. Attachments 14, 15 and 16.

4 January 1977

The Office of Security/CIA again rejects the Hillside safe and requests the purchase of the Mosler safe. Attachment 17.

February 1977 to Date

To avoid the substitution of Hillside safes by GSA for Mosler or Diebold models, it has been the practice of the Agency in this period to purchase, directly from the manufacturer, a number of safes costing an amount under that which would require us to deal through GSA.